

- (6) Moore's Columbarium. Reprinted from the original edition of 1735, with a brief notice of the Author, by W. B. TEGETMEIER, London, 1879.
- (7) The Natural History of the Cranes. A Monograph by the late EDWARD BLYTH, C.M.Z.S. Greatly enlarged, and reprinted, with numerous illustrations, by W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.Z.S. London, 1881. 4to.
- (8) The new Game Bird, Pallas's Sand-Grouse: its Natural History, with a Plea for its Preservation. By W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.Z.S. Pp. 23. London, 1888. 8vo.
- (9) "On the Principal Modern Breeds of the Domestic Fowl." *Ibis*, 1890, pp. 304-327; 20 text-figs.

### IX.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

#### *Balducci on the Sardinian Crow.*

[Intorno alla pretesa nuova forma del *Corvus sardus* di Kleinschmidt. Riv. Ital. Ornit. i. 1912, pp. 225-236, tav. i. & ii.]

Signor Balducci has studied the Sardinian Crow which has been separated from that of the mainland, and, after an examination of a large series of both forms, has come to the conclusion that there is no ground for their separation.

#### *Beebe on new Blood-Pheasants.*

[New Blood-Pheasants. By C. William Beebe. Zoologica, New York, vol. i. 1912, pp. 189-193.]

When travelling through Yunan, during his recent journey in the East, Mr. Beebe met a Chinaman who had attached to his pack-horse the remains of a Blood-Pheasant. On his return to Europe he found two mounted birds of the same kind in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris, which shewed him that the Yunan bird was undoubtedly a very distinct form. He proposes to call it *Ithaginis kuseri*, after Col. Kuser, for whom he has been conducting his Pheasant researches. The type in Paris was obtained by Prince Henri d'Orléans in 1896. Mr. Beebe also separates the Blood-Pheasant of southern and British Sikkim from that of Nepal and northern Sikkim under the title of *Ithaginis cruentus affinis*.

*Beebe on the Yucatan Jay.*

[The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay. By C. William Beebe and Lee S. Crondal. Zoologica, New York, vol. i. 1911, pp. 153-156, 1 pl.]

This paper contains a description of the various plumages of some living specimens of the Yucatan Jay (*Cissilopha yucatanica*), which are (or lately were) living in the Zoological Park, New York. These changes are fully described, and a coloured plate is added of one of them. We do not quite understand why they are called "juvenal" and not "juvenile."

*Bickerton on the Terns.*

[The Home-life of the Terns or Sea-Swallows photographed and described. By W. Bickerton, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Pp. 1-88, 32 plates. London (Witherby): 1912. 8vo. Price 6s.]

This work forms one of Messrs. Witherby's "Bird-lovers Home-life Series," and deals with the five species of Terns breeding in the British Islands—the Sandwich, Roseate, Common, Arctic, and Lesser. All the matter is the result of the personal observations of the author, who has spent some five weeks in four different years at Ravenglass in Cumberland, watching and photographing the Sandwich, Common, and Lesser Terns, while his pictures of and notes on the Roseate and Arctic Terns were secured on a group of small rocky islets off the British coast, the exact position of which Mr. Bickerton wisely withholds from his published pages.

At Ravenglass, owing to the strict rules imposed by Lord Muncaster, to whom belongs the tract of sand-hills where the Terns breed, there is every reason to hope that the Sandwich Tern—the rarer species—is increasing, and Mr. Bickerton gives a table of the numbers of eggs recorded by the keeper as having increased from 120 in 1900 to 403 in 1912.

Mr. Bickerton's observations on the varying habits of these species of Tern in regard to nesting-sites, nest-construction, sociability, and other psychological characters, are full of interest, and are told in a charming and direct

manner, while his photographs, which are known to many members of the Union, not only illustrate his text and confirm many of his observations, but are works of art in themselves. We must congratulate Mr. Bickerton, as well as the publishers, on this exceedingly artistic work, which is also a valuable record of the study of the life-history of one of the most interesting groups of birds in our avifauna.

*Harvie-Brown on the Fulmar.*

[The Fulmar: its Past and Present Status in the North Atlantic and in the Northern Parts of Europe and North America, and some Account of its great Increase in Great Britain. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Zoologist, 1912, pp. 381-388, 401-416, pls. i. & ii.]

The Fulmar: its Past and Present Distribution as a Breeding Species in the British Isles. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Scottish Naturalist, 1912, pp. 97-102, 121-132, pl. iv. map.]

As many of our readers are doubtless aware, the Fulmar has extended its breeding-range and become much more numerous of late years about our northern coasts. In the two papers quoted, Mr. Harvie-Brown has very carefully put together all the records and evidence at his disposal of this extension of range, and has plotted it down on an excellent map, of which two editions are given in the May and June numbers of the 'Scottish Naturalist.'

The Fulmar has been known on St. Kilda for over two hundred and fifty years, but it did not appear at the Faroe Islands until 1839. The earliest date for the Shetlands is 1878, when it commenced to breed on Foula; for the Orkneys 1900, and for the Clomore Cliffs near Cape Wraith 1897; on the Flannan Isles, outliers of the Hebrides, one was observed in 1885, but it was abundant in 1902, while in the past two years (1910 and 1911) it has reached the cliffs of Ulster and Mayo, in Ireland, respectively.

Mr. Harvie-Brown comments on these remarkable facts, and suggests that this extension of breeding-range has been probably caused by "congestion at its more northerly breeding-stations," and draws attention to the relationship between dispersal and migration which, he believes, may throw some light on the latter phenomenon.

*Chapman on the Birds of Eastern North America.*

[Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America, with Introductory Chapters on the Study of Birds in Nature. By Frank M. Chapman. Pp. xxx+530, 24 pls., 136 text-figs. Revised edition. New York and London (D. Appleton & Company): 1912. Sm. 8vo. Price \$3.50.]

This new edition of Mr. Frank Chapman's well-known handbook has been thoroughly revised, and contains several new and valuable features. The introductory portion has been increased to one hundred and sixteen pages, and contains chapters on migration, song, nesting-habits, colour, structure, and food, which may be read with considerable profit. The space given to the description of each bird has not been materially increased, but has been revised, especially as regards nomenclature and distribution. In these matters the last (1910) edition of the B. O. U. Check-list has been closely followed. Other new features are a zone-map of North America, adapted from that of the Biological Survey, and a useful colour-chart.

We can thoroughly recommend this little work, the first edition of which was published so long ago as 1892, as the most useful guide to the study and identification of North American birds.

*Chapman on a new Ibis.*

[A new Ibis from Mt. Kenia, British East Africa. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxxi. 1912, pp. 235-238, pls. xxiii., xxiv.]

Mr. Chapman describes an interesting new Ibis resembling in a general way *Hagedashia hagedash*, but which differs in having a very distinct nape-crest of rounded feathers and the orbital and loreal space bare of feathers. For this he proposes the name *Oreoibis akleyorum*, gen. et sp. nov.

The bird was discovered and obtained by the well-known American taxidermist Mr. C. E. Akeley, who, with his wife, has been recently collecting in various parts of British East Africa. The examples obtained were met with on the southern slopes of Mt. Kenia, at an altitude of about 9000 feet, while other specimens were observed at similar altitudes on Mt. Elgon and in the Aberdare mountains. The species

appears to be confined to higher altitudes, and takes the place of *Hagedashia*, which does not range above 6000 feet. Mrs. Akeley found a nest containing three nestlings and a fragment of an egg-shell on the same occasion, all of which specimens are now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

*Eagle Clarke on Migration.*

[Studies in Bird-Migration. By William Eagle Clarke. With maps, charts, and other illustrations. Vol. i. pp. xvi+323; vol. ii. pp. viii+346. London (Gurney & Jackson), 1912. 8vo.]

Mr. Clarke is peculiarly well qualified to write on the migration of birds, for he has made the closest study of the subject for some thirty years, and in 1903 prepared the digests of the several annual Reports of the Migration Committee of the British Association, of which he became a member in 1883. While engaged upon this task he found that a much greater number of observations than had been already made were necessary for safe generalizations, and he therefore decided to devote his spare time to visiting those excellent observation-stations which Great Britain, from her geographical position, possesses in abundance. After a somewhat unlucky trip to Ushant in 1898, Mr. Clarke obtained leave to pass a month on the Eddystone in September and October 1901, to study the cross Channel migration. At the same period of 1903 he spent a month on the 'Kentish Knock' Lightship, corroborating and enlarging upon his Eddystone experiences, and viewing the extraordinary east to west movements across the North Sea. In 1904 the Flannan Isles, to the west of the Hebrides, were chosen for observation-purposes, while Sule Skerry, to the north-west of Orkney, was visited for a few hours during the voyage home. The year 1905, however, provided the greatest success, when Fair Isle, between Shetland and Orkney, was visited: for not only were a marvellous number of rare species proved to touch there on passage in autumn, but several occurred that were new to the British and Scottish lists. Accounts of this expedition and others subsequently undertaken are given at length in three chapters. Two

others are devoted to St. Kilda, the scene of Mr. Clarke's labours in the autumn of 1910 and 1911, where the results were but little less successful than in Fair Isle. The author hopes to obtain further details as to the spring migration, through George Stout, a native of the island last mentioned, who has supplied many excellent notes, after being trained for the purpose.

The whole book is replete with information on British Migration—for the studies chiefly refer to our islands—and a great deal may be learnt from it, as to the course taken by the birds on their journeys to and from our shores, as well as on the most suitable weather. In the chapter on Meteorological Conditions this is fully discussed, with charts verified by Dr. Shaw at the Meteorological Office. Birds appear to start about 7 P.M., the winds between south and east being the most favourable, and those between west and north comparatively unfavourable: the actual direction of the wind is not a matter of great importance, it is rather the type of weather which accompanies it at the starting-point that tells. In the favourable anticyclones fogs are common, and then the Lights act as decoys; in clear weather little is seen of the birds. High winds are naturally adverse, while the temperature is important.

The earlier chapters are devoted to the causes of migration and the ancient and modern ideas on the subject, while others discuss the routes usually taken, and give charts of lines of flight. Eight are devoted to individual species, the Swallow, the Fieldfare, the White Wagtail, the Song-Thrush, the Skylark, the Lapwing, the Starling, and the Rook; and these, which are reprinted from the British Association Reports, have been carefully revised and largely supplemented.

#### *Coward on Migration.*

[The Migration of Birds. By T. A. Coward. Pp. x+138. Cambridge (University Press), 1912. 8vo. Price 1s.]

The present forms one of the volumes of the Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature, edited by Dr. P. Giles and Prof. Seward. It is a reasonable little book, and does

not attempt to introduce any new theories on the cause of migration. Mr. Coward considers that fluctuating food-supply, love of home, sexual impulses, desire for light, and varying temperature have all been factors in the migration impulse. There are chapters on routes, on the speed of migrants' flight and the effects of wind and weather, and on early ideas and the history of the investigations. The book contains, in fact, a good summary of our present knowledge of this still mysterious problem.

*Hellmayr on Zonotrichia strigiceps.*

[Bemerkungen ueber eine wenig bekannte neotropische Ammer (*Zonotrichia strigiceps*). Von C. E. Hellmayr. Verb. Orn. Ges. in Bayern, xi. 2 Heft (1912).]

The author writes a short history of *Zonotrichia strigiceps*, a rare South-American Finch, originally discovered by Darwin and described by Gould. He also describes an allied form as belonging to a new subspecies, and names it *Zonotrichia strigiceps dabbenei*. It is from the mountains of north-western Argentina.

*Hellmayr and v. Seilern on Venezuelan Birds.*

[Beiträge zur Ornithologie von Venezuela. Von C. E. Hellmayr and J. Graf von Seilern. Arch. f. Naturgesch. vol. lxxviii. Abt. A, Heft 5, 1912, pp. 34-166.]

This paper is based on a collection of about 1200 skins made by an American traveller, Mr. S. M. Klages, in 1909 and 1910 in northern Venezuela. The authors refer them to 171 species. They add the names of about twenty other species that have been recorded as Venezuelan.

The new subspecies described are *Tangara* (scribe *Calliste*) *guttata bogotensis*, *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus venezuelanus*, *Pseudocolaptes boissonneauti striaticeps*, *Sittasomus griseus virescens*, *Psammoplex brunnescens rostratus*, and *Drymophila caudata klagesi*.

The work appears to have been most carefully done, as is the case with other articles by Herr Hellmayr, but we protest against his practice of adding the names of authors to

synonyms which they never quoted—e. g., “*Basileuterus tristriatus meridanus* Sharpe” (*op. cit.* p. 47). Sharpe detested trinomials and never used them. He called them “destructive,” and he was not far from right! In the present paper most of the species have three names, and, including the authority, four. What has become of the “binomial” system?

*Hennicke on Bird-protection.*

[Vogelschutzbuch von Dr. Carl B. Hennicke. Mit 8 Taf. und 60 Abbild. im Text: pp. vi+126. Stuttgart (Strecker u. Schröder) [1912]. 8vo.]

This little work, which forms one of a series known as the “Naturwissenschaftliche Wegweiser,” deals with a subject which has made much progress in Germany of late years. After two short chapters on the æsthetic and economic bases for bird-protection, follow more practical directions for attaining this object by tree- and shrub-planting, winter feeding, providing nest-boxes, and other methods, and, finally, a résumé of the legislative enactments for bird-protection in the principal European countries. Most of the methods recommended are based on those of Freiherr von Berlepsch.

*Hopkinson on the Birds of the Gambia.*

[The Gambia, its History, Ancient, Mediæval, and Modern, together with its Geographical, Geological, and Ethnographical Conditions, and a Description of the Birds, Beasts, and Fishes found therein. By Henry Fenwick Reeve, C.M.G. 1 vol., 4to. London (Smith & Elder), 1912.]

This is a volume on the little-known English territory of “The Gambia,” on the west coast of Africa, and will be very useful to anyone going to that Colony or interested in its welfare.

It contains, as will be seen by its title, information on a considerable number of subjects, and amongst others a chapter on the Birds (part iii. pp. 210–233) prepared by Dr. Hopkinson, D.S.O. Their correct scientific names are given in most cases, and a few short notes on their habits.

See on this subject Rendall, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 215.



*Hørring on the Birds observed at Danish Lighthouses.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1911. 29de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved R. Hørring. Med. et Kort. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. Bd. 64, 1912: pp. 141-209.]

This report, which has been for so many years prepared by Mr. H. Winge, now appears under the authorship of Mr. Hørring. It follows the lines of previous reports in giving:—(1) A list of birds in systematic order, with the dates when, and lights where, they were observed. (2) A list of birds according to the dates of their appearance, and with a weather report from each lighthouse or ship.

*Hull on the Birds of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.*

[The Birds of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. By A. F. Basset Hull. Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. vol. xxxiv. 1910, pp. 636-693, 5 pls.]

Although there have been many references to these two islands and their birds in Australian ornithological literature and elsewhere, no complete account of their Avifauna has been published, and Mr. Hull, who has himself visited both islands, is quite right in supposing that such an account would be acceptable.

After a short history of the previous literature on the subject and some remarks on the physical formation of the two islands, the author gives a tabular list of all the species that, to the best of his belief, actually breed upon them. These are about thirty in number, about half of them being marine birds. The general list that follows contains the names of seventy-nine species, arranged according to Mathews' 'Hand-list,' and many interesting field-notes. *Aplonis fuscus*, allied to the mainland genus *Calornis*, is found in both islands, but not elsewhere. The Avifauna, as a whole, is a mixture of Australian and New Zealand species, with some endemic forms in each island. *Merula vinincta* is a "very common and exceedingly tame species," peculiar to Lord Howe Island, and represented in Norfolk Island by an allied form *M. fuliginosa*. Five plates of eggs illustrate this useful paper.

*Mathews on Australian Birds.*

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. ii. pts. 3 and 4, pp. 237-476, pls. 95-120. London (Witherby & Co.), 1912. 4to.]

Mr. Mathews sends us two solid instalments of the above-mentioned work, which take us to the end of the Procellariiformes and into the Lariformes. Whatever opinions may be formed as to the validity of the specific or subspecific forms recognised, there can be no question as to the immense amount of information now laid before us, and future writers, in consequence, will now find it a much easier task to discuss the Petrels of the World, especially after comparing the author's views with those of Dr. Godman in his great Monograph. Solander's excellent descriptions are in many cases a considerable help in determining the nomenclature, while Mr. Mathews's 'Austral Avian Record' and his papers in 'Novitates Zoologicae,' vols. xvii. and xviii. should also be consulted. Attention may be more particularly drawn to the discussion of the genera in the present book, and to the differences of the bills in the Albatrosses, of which good woodcuts are given in illustration. The genera accepted are *Diomedea*, *Phaebastria*, *Thalassarctke*, *Thalassogeron*, and *Phaebetria*, while *D. epomophora* of Lesson replaces *D. regia* of Buller, and *Phaetria palpebrata* of Forster is used for *P. fuliginosa* of Gmelin.

Under the head of Lariformes we observe that *Hydrochelidon* is rightly retained in place of *Chlidonias* of Rafinesque, published only in a newspaper called the 'Kentucky Gazette'; *Gelochelidon* is accepted for our Gull-billed Tern, though the specific name *anglica* is changed to *nilotica*, and the Caspian Tern stands as *Hydroprogne tschegrava*. In the genus *Sterna*, *S. sumatrana* replaces *S. melanauchen*, shown to be the adult of the same species, and the Australian form is differentiated as *S. s. kempi*, while the author's own *S. s. incerta* is sunk in favour of *S. s. melanorhyncha*. *Thalasseus* is utilized for the whole of the *S. bergii* group of forms, while *S. media* of Horsfield is found to be preoccupied and the name *T. bengalensis torresii* substituted.

*Sternula* is used for the Least Terns, *Onychoprion* for the

Sooty Terns, the young of which differ remarkably from those of *Sterna*; similarly *Melanosterna* is adopted as a genus for *S. anæstha* auct., which also exhibits peculiar changes of plumage, as does the "Brown-winged Tern," now denominated *fuscatus* instead of *fuliginosus*. Careful attention has been given to the Noddy Terns, and the most modern account is given of the curious breeding-habits of *Gygis*. Finally, woodcuts are inserted to illustrate the pattern of the wing-feathers in *Bruchigavia*, the name adopted for the Australian "Silver Gull."

Four new generic terms are proposed:—*Nealbatrus* for *Thalassogeron chlororhynchus*, *Diomedella* for *T. cautus*, *Gygisterna* for *Sterna sunatrana*, and *Anousella* for *Anous leucocapillus*, two of these names being of a somewhat hybrid character. *Megalopterus* of Boie is also preferred to *Micromous*, and his specific title *minutus* to *leucocapillus* of Gould.

No less than thirty new subspecies are proposed:—*Pelecanoides urinatrix coppingeri*, *P. garnoti lessoni*, *P. g. magellani*, *Diomedea exulans rothschildi*, *D. epimophora mac-cormicki* (= *regia* Buller), *Thalassarche melanocephala imparida*, *T. m. betcheri*, *T. m. richmondi*, *Thalassogeron chryso-stoma harterti*, *Phæbetria palpebrata huttoni*, *P. fusca campbelli*, *Hydrochelidon leucopareia leycei*, *H. l. delalandii*, *H. l. swinhoei*, *Gelochelidon nilotica addenda*, *G. n. grönvoldi*, *Thalassus bergii bakeri*, *T. b. edwardsi*, *T. bengalensis arabicus*, *Sterna dougalli bangsi*, *S. d. arideensis*, *Sternula nereis exsul*, *Melanosterna anæthetus recognita*, *Anous stolidus gilberti*, *Megalopterus minutus americanus*, *M. m. atlanticus*, *Procelsterna cerulea nebouxi*, *P. c. imitatrix*, *Gygis alba royana*, *G. a. monte*, and *Bruchigavia novæ-hollandiæ forsteri*.

#### *Morse on the Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.*

[A Pocket-list of the Birds of Eastern Massachusetts, with special reference to Essex County. By Alfred P. Morse. Published by the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass. 1912. 94 pp. Sm. 8vo.]

This little handbook has been prepared at the request of the Museum Committee of the Peabody Academy of Science.

with the intention of encouraging a legitimate popular interest in the bird-life of the neighbourhood of Salem, and also as a guide to the collections in the Museum at the same place. The list contains 390 species and subspecies; of these, three—the Great Auk, the Labrador Duck, and the Passenger Pigeon—are undoubtedly extinct; of the others, 280 are species of regular occurrence. The list is printed on one side of the page, and there is a photographic plate of Egg Rock, near Nahant, the nesting-site of several species of Terns.

*Moulton on the Sarawak Museum.*

[Ninth Report of the Sarawak Museum, 1910. By J. C. Moulton, Curator. 45 pp. 8vo.]

A good account is here given of the progress of the Sarawak Museum in Borneo, which is kept up mainly, we believe, by the liberality of H.H. Rājah Brooke. It has been prepared by the Curator, Mr. J. C. Moulton.

In the Appendix is given a complete list of the 416 Bornean birds represented in the Sarawak Museum. Among these, we observe, are sixteen specimens of the rare and peculiar Bornean type *Pityriasis gymnocephala* and two examples of the fine Pheasant *Lobiophasis bulweri*.

*Oberholser on the Subspecies of Butorides virescens.*

[A Revision of the Subspecies of the Green Heron, *Butorides virescens*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Museum, vol. xlii. 1912, pp. 529-577.]

The author, after examining a large series of the widely spread Green Heron of America (*Butorides virescens*), divides the species into seventeen subspecies, and gives full descriptions of all of them, adding other particulars as to their variation and distribution. The following subspecies are now newly described:—*B. v. eremonomus*, *B. v. mesatus*, *B. v. hypernotius*, *B. v. cubanus*, *B. v. christophorensis*, *B. v. dominicanus*, *B. v. lucianus*, *B. v. barbadosensis*, *B. v. granadensis*, *B. v. tobacensis*, and *B. v. curacensis*.

*Oliver on the Birds of Lord Howe, Norfolk, and the Kermadec Islands.*

[Geographic Relationships of the Birds of Lord Howe, Norfolk, and the Kermadec Islands. By W. R. B. Oliver. Trans. New Zealand Inst. vol. xliv. 1912, pp. 214-221.]

All Oceanic Islands are of great importance as regards their birds, particularly as to those birds that are resident and nesting in them, and the three island-groups studied in the present paper are of much interest. But the results arrived at are somewhat meagre, and there is little information given as to the evidence upon which they are based. The tables supplied consist of merely the names of the species.

*Van Oort on Birds from the Dutch Indies.*

[List of a Collection of Birds from Western Java and Krakatau. By Dr. E. D. van Oort. Notes Leyden Museum, xxvii. 1910, pp. 106-166.

An undescribed form of *Microglossus aterrimus*. Ibid. xxxiii. 1911, pp. 239-240.

One small Collection of Birds from Mount Tengger, East Java. Ibid. xxxiv. 1912, pp. 44-50.

*Endynamis minima*, an apparently new Cuckoo from South-western New Guinea. Ibid. xxxiv. 1912, p. 54.

On some new or rare Birds from Sumatra, Java, Ceram, and the Poeloe Toedjoe group north of Ceram. Ibid. xxxiv. 1912, pp. 59-65.]

The first of these papers contains an account of about 800 specimens obtained by Mr. Edward Jacobson in various localities in Java, as well as in the island of Krakatau. Mr. Jacobson made some interesting observations on the re-stocking of that island after the great irruption, when the whole of the fauna and flora were practically wiped out. No new species are described in the paper.

In the second paper a new black Cockatoo is described from Humboldt Bay, on the north-west coast of New Guinea, under the name of *Microglossus aterrimus stenolophus*.

The third paper contains a list of a further collection of birds from eastern Java, in which is described a new subspecies, *Crocopsis bimaculatus tenggerensis*.

The last paper on the list deals with some rare and some new species collected by Baron van Dedem, who, with his

wife, recently made a tour through the Dutch Indies. They obtained a fine and distinct new Woodpecker (*Gecinus dedemi*) on the slopes of the Volcano Sibajak in northern Sumatra, at an elevation of 1450 metres, a new Flycatcher (*Rhipidura dedemi*) and a new Swift (*Collocalia ceramensis*) from Ceram, while several other birds are described as "nov. form."!—but what this means exactly we cannot make out.

*Schaub on the Nest-down of Birds.*

[Die Nestdunen der Vögel und ihre Bedeutung für die Phylogenie der Feder. Von S. Schaub. Verhandl. naturf. Ges. Basel, xxiii. 1912.]

In this paper the author combats the views of Mr. Pycraft and endeavours to uphold those of Gadow. He believes that the first or neoptile plumage is always developed from the same papilla, and in direct continuity with the second down or deuteroptile and the definitive feather or teleoptile, and it is not possible to consider the three successive feather-coverings as separate generations, and further that the neoptile is not primitive, but a secondary development, and cannot be used to trace the connection between reptilian scales and definite feathers.

*Sclater on the Ornithological Literature of 1911.*

[Zoological Record, vol. xviii. Aves. By W. L. Sclater, M.A. London, October 1912. Pp. 115.]

The Report on 'Aves' from the volume of the Zoological Record for the year 1911 is by the same author as the preceding Record (for 1910), and follows nearly the same plan. The list of titles of zoological works and papers with which it commences, contains 1536 entries, the corresponding number for 1910 being 1721. The systematic arrangement followed is, as in the last report, that of the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe.

Of the 1536 publications listed Germany claims 311, Great Britain 322, United States 316, France 137, Russia 112, Italy 35, British India 31, Austria 27, Hungary 24, Switzerland 21, Sweden 19, Denmark 17, Holland 16,

South Africa and Finland 11 each, Canada and Belgium 7 each, the Philippine Islands 4, Norway, Japan, the Malay Peninsula, British East Africa, Cuba, and the Argentine 3 each, Portugal and Poland 2 each, Luxembourg, Roumania, Egypt, New Zealand, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Barbados, and British Guiana each one only.

*Shelley on African Birds.*

[The Birds of Africa, comprising all the Species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley. Completed and edited by W. L. Selater. Vol. v. pt. ii. pp. viii and 165-502, pls. 1-lvii. London (Sothoran & Co.), 1912. 8vo.]

Captain Shelley's well-known work on the 'Birds of Africa' was left unfinished at his death, but, fortunately, the manuscript and some proof-sheets were handed over to Mr. W. L. Selater, whose experience of the avifauna of that continent qualifies him admirably for the task of editor. He has supplied certain descriptions which were lacking, and has revised the whole in the light of the discoveries of the last six years. The present instalment is devoted to the group *Laniæ*, which is subdivided in a somewhat unusual way—chiefly by the habits of the members, though partly by the colour of the young and other characteristics. In some cases the key of the genus requires both male and female to be examined in order to determine the species, a method of which we can hardly approve. But, no doubt, the present Editor will not follow the same course.

The families admitted are *Dicruridæ*, *Vangidæ* (Madagascar and Great Comoro only), *Campophagidæ*, *Laniidæ* (with subfamilies *Laniinæ* and *Laniarinæ*), and *Prionopidæ* (with subfamilies *Nilainæ* and *Prionopinæ*). Of these the first and third are usually considered less closely connected with the Shrikes than Captain Shelley believed.

Much space is devoted to a consideration of the ranges of the various forms, and this is of undoubted utility in forming a decision as to the validity of the species or subspecies, not to mention races; the author refuses to recognise a fair

number named by earlier authorities, and reduces others from species to subspecies; but for these our readers must consult the pages themselves. The accounts of the habits, nests, and eggs are, moreover, full and interesting. We notice, among other details, that *Phoncus* is accepted as a generic title for the Woodehat group, *Tchagra* of Lesson for *Telephonus* of Swainson, *Telophorus* of Swainson for *Pelicius* of Boie, while the *Tanga* of South Madagascar is elevated to specific rank as *V. griseipectus*, sp. n.

Eight excellent plates have been drawn by Grönvold for this part.

*Waterhouse on new Generic Names.*

[Index Zoologicus, No. II., compiled for the Zoological Society of London by Charles Owen Waterhouse, I.S.O., and edited by David Sharp, M.A., F.R.S. Pp. vi+324. London (Zoological Society), 1912. 8vo.]

This laborious but useful compilation contains a complete list of names of new genera and subgenera proposed for use in Zoology for the years 1901-1910 inclusive: the greater number of these are to be found in the annual volumes of the 'Zoological Record' and the 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' now happily one so far as Zoology is concerned. There are also included names which have escaped the hawk-like eyes of the Recorders, and others which have been accidentally omitted from previous "nomenclators."

The editor reckons that up to the end of 1910 some 140,000 names for genera have been used in Zoology. It is very evident that great care must be taken by those naturalists who are proposing new generic names not to trespass on the 140,000 names already used, and it is therefore highly desirable that such a list as this should be issued from time to time. We may add that the price of the work is 15s. to the public and 12s. 6d. to Fellows of the Zoological Society, at whose expense the volume is published.



*Other Ornithological Publications received.*

- BRYANT, H. C. Birds in relation to a Grasshopper outbreak in California. (Cal. Univ. Pub., Zool. Vol. ii. No. 1, Nov. 1912.)
- The present and future status of the Californian Valley Quail. (Condor, July 1912.)
- COBURN, F. Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) breeding in North Iceland. (Zoologist, Sept. 1912.)
- GALSWORTHY, JOHN. For Love of Beasts. (Animals' Friend Pamphlet, 1912.)
- HELLMAYR, C. E. Zoologische Ergebnisse einer Reise in das Mundsgebiet des Amazonas herausgegeben von Lorenz Miller.—II. Vögel. (München, 1912.)
- HORSBROUGH, Major BOYD. The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa. Parts 3, 4. (London, 1912.)
- LAURIE, D. F. Poultry Foods and Feeding. (London, 1912.)
- LOUDON, Baron II. Le baguage des oiseaux. [Russian.] (Moscow, 1912.)
- MENZBIER, M. A. Zoogeographischer Atlas. (Moskau, 1912.)
- MILLER, W. DEW. A Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers. (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. xxxi., 1912.)
- MITCHELL, P. CHALMERS. The Childhood of Animals. (London, 1912.)
- OBERHOLSER, H. C. Descriptions of 104 new species and subspecies of Birds from the Barussian Islands and Sumatra. (Smiths. Misc. Coll. Vol. lx. No. 7, 1911.)
- Report on the Immigrations of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1911. (Bull. B. O. C. Vol. xxx., Nov. 1912.)
- SALVADORI, T. Secondo Contributo all' Ornitologia del Congo. (Ann. Mus. Civ. di Storia Nat. Genova, October 1912.)
- SARUDNY, N. & HÄRMS, M. Bemerkungen über einige Vögel Persiens. (Journ. f. Ornith., October 1912.)
- SCHENK, J. Das Experiment in der Vogelzugsforschung. (Bericht V. Int. Orn.-Kong. Berlin, 1910.)
- THAYER, A. H. Concealing Coloration, an answer to Theodore Roosevelt. (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. xxxi., 1912.)
- Avicultural Magazine. (3rd Series, Vol. iii. Nos. 11, 12; Vol. iv. Nos. 1-3, 1912.)
- Bird Lore. (Vol. xiv. No. 6, 1912.)
- Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. iii. Nos. 9-12, 1912.)
- British Birds. (Vol. vi. Nos. 6-8, 1912.)
- Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de Genève. (Tome i. Fasc. 17-19, 1912.)
- Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht. (No. 2. Deventer, 1912.)

- The Condor. (Vol. xiv. Nos. 5, 6, 1912.)  
The Emu. (Vol. xii. pt. 2, 1912.)  
Messenger Ornithologique. (Moscow) (Nos. 3, 4, 1912.)  
The Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 11-13, 1912.)  
Zoological Society Bulletin, New York. (November 1912.)  
Zoologischer Anzeiger. (Bd. xl. Nr. 10-13; xli. Nr. 1-4, 1912.)
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X.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

We have received the following letters addressed "to the Editor":—

SIR,—Mr. W. P. Lowe's most interesting account of the Gannets (*Sula capensis* Licht.) on Ichabo Island ('Ibis,' 1912, p. 263), has induced me to make some further enquiries, and I learn from Mr. Müller, H.B.M. Consul, that they are as numerous as ever, covering the whole island.

He writes, under date of October 2nd :—

"The men's quarters have had to be fenced off to keep the birds away, and they had to expedite the loading of the last lot of guano collected, as the birds returning to nest began laying upon the stacks. Various attempts have been made to estimate the numbers of the Malagas. . . ."

It seems possible that there are more Gannets on Ichabo than on the celebrated Bird Island in Algoa Bay.

I am, Sir,

Yours &c.,

Keswick Hall,  
Norwich.

J. H. GURNEY.

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SIR,—In the October number of 'The Ibis' I had occasion to figure the male and female of the Blue Chaffinch of Gran Canaria (*Fringilla teydea polatzeki*). May I be permitted to point out the discrepancies between the original painting and the reproductions (Plate xii.), which are so marked as to take away to a large degree from the value of the plate. In fairness to the artist—H. Grönvold—I should like to